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DESRON 20 HISTORY 1967

VOLUME VI

USS CHARLES P. CECIL (DD-835)

1 FEBRUARY 1968

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VOLUME VI
USS C. P. CECIL (DD-835)
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SECTION A

CHRONOLOGY

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A. CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY 1967

- 1 Tender availability, Subic Bay, R.P. COMDESDIV 202 embarked. Operating under the Operational Control of COMSEVENTHFLT.
- 7 Underway for the Gulf of Tonkin.
9. Entered the Combat Zone and joined TG 77.4 consisting of USS TICONDEROGA (CVA-14) and USS BRAINE (DD-630)
- 12 Conducted ASW Exercises with USS BLACK FIN (SS-322) in the Gulf of Tonkin.
- 15 Departed the Gulf of Tonkin enroute to Subic Bay Operating Areas.
- 18 Conducted ASW exercises with the USS BROWNSON (DD-868) and USS CARBONERO (SS-337).
- 19 Entered Subic Bay for fuel stop, underway for Hong Kong BCC.
- 22 Arrived Hong Kong. Relieved USS MULLANEY (DD-528) as SOPA (ADMIN) Hong Kong.
- 25 COMDESDIV 202 hauled down his pennant and departed for Da Nang, South Vietnam.
- 31 COMDESDIV 202 returned and broke his pennant in CECIL.

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FEBRUARY 1967

- 1 Anchored in Hong Kong harbor as SOPA (ADMIN).
- 4 USS WARRINGTON (DD-843) arrived to relieve as SOPA (ADMIN).
- 5 Underway. Enroute Gulf of Tonkin.
- 6 Entered the Combat Zone. Joined with USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) and USS STODDARD (DD-566) to form TG 77.5.
- 14 Detached from TG 77.5 to proceed independently to Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
- 15 COMDESDIV 202 hauled down his pennant and departed for duties with Sea Dragon.
- 17 Entered Kaohsiung harbor, Taiwan for tender availability.
- 25 INSERV inspection by Pacific Sub-INSERV Board.

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MARCH 1967

- 1 Underway for II Corps Area for NGFS.
- 3 Relieved USS NORRIS (DD-859) as Naval Gunfire Support Ship.
- 14 Released as Naval Gunfire Support Ship. Enroute Singapore. Joined USS MYLES C. FOX (DD-829), USS BROWNSON (DD-868) and USS NORRIS (DD-859). COMDESDIV 202 returned and broke his pennant.
- 15 Arrived Singapore.
- 17 COMDESDIV 202 departed and broke his pennant in USS MYLES C. FOX (DD-829). Underway for Cochin, India. Detached to proceed to the Equator; crossed at 105°00' E at 141434H.
- 20 Rejoined MYLES C. FOX, NORRIS, and BROWNSON as a unit of TG 26.2. Chopped from COMSEVENTHFLT to CINCLANTFLT. COMDESDIV 202 returned.
- 22 Arrived Cochin, India for fuel.
- 23 Underway enroute Aden.
- 27 Arrived Aden for fuel. Underway enroute Suez Canal. Entered Red Sea.
- 30 Arrived Port Suez.
- 31 Underway for Suez Canal transit enroute Port Said.

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APRIL 1967

- 1 Arrived Port Said. Entered Mediterranean Sea enroute to Athens, Greece. Chopped to CINCUSNAVEUR.
- 2 Arrived Athens.
- 4 Annual Administrative Inspection. Chief Inspector COMDESDIV 202, Assist Ship BROWNSON. Grade 93.38.
- 5 Underway for Naples. Conducted Operational Readiness Inspection. Chief Inspector COMDESDIV 202, Assist Ship NORRIS. Grade 88.4
- 7 Arrived Naples.
- 10 Underway for Barcelona.
- 11 Arrived Barcelona.
- 14 Underway for Gibraltar.
- 15 Arrived Gibraltar for fuel. Underway for Azores.
- 16 Chopped to CINCLANTFLT.
- 18 Arrived Ponta Del Gata, Azores.
- 19 Underway for Newport, R.I.
- 25 Arrived Newport, R.I., commenced leave period.

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MAY 1967

- 1 Inport Newport, R.I.
- 29 Underway for NARRABAY OPAREA for gunnery exercises. Returned to port.
- 31 Underway for NARRABAY OPAREA to conduct gunnery exercises and ASW exercises with USS HARDHEAD (SS-365).

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JUNE 1967

1. Returned to Newport, R.I.
- 5 Annual NTPI conducted by NUWPNTACENLANT. Grade - 92.45.
- 6 Commenced tender availability.
- 25 Completed tender availability.
- 27 Underway for Earle, N.J. to unload ammunition.
- 28 Arrived Earle, N.J.
- 29 Underway for Boston Naval Shipyard.
- 30 Arrived Boston Naval Shipyard to commence regular shipyard overhaul.

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JULY 1967

- 1 Inport at Boston Naval Shipyard for regular shipyard overhaul.
- 21 Entered dry dock, Boston Naval Shipyard.

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AUGUST 1967

1. Inport at Boston Naval Shipyard for regular shipyard overhaul.
2. Left dry dock.

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SEPTEMBER 1967

1 Inport at Boston Naval Shipyard for regular shipyard overhaul.

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OCTOBER 1967

- 1 Inport at Boston Naval Shipyard for regular shipyard overhaul.
- 17 Held dock trials.
- 31 Underway for full power run. Returned to the shipyard.

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NOVEMBER 1967

- 1 Inport at Boston Naval Shipyard for regular shipyard overhaul.
- 15 Underway for sea trials.
- 16 Returned to shipyard.
- 17 Underway for sea trials. Returned to shipyard.
- 19 Completed regular shipyard overhaul. Enroute Earle N.J. via FORACS range at Provincetown, Mass.
- 20 Ran measured mile at Provincetown, Mass.
- 21 Arrived Earle, N.J. Loaded ammunition.
- 22 Underway for Newport, R.I.
- 23 Arrived Newport, R.I.
- 27 Underway for VACAPES OPAREA to conduct antenna radiation patterns.
- 29 Departed VACAPES OPAREA for Newport, R.I.

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DECEMBER 1967

- 1 Arrived Newport, R.I.
- 7 Underway for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- 11 Arrived Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- 13 Commenced refresher training and security duties including offshore patrol and Naval Gunfire Support Ship.
- 25 Christmas. Inport, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

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SECTION B

NARRATIVE HISTORY

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B. NARRATIVE HISTORY

COMMAND ORGANIZATION

COMMANDING OFFICER: CDR WINSTON D. BRIGGS, USN
28 DECEMBER 1965 to PRESENT

Homeport: Newport, Rhode Island

Homeyard: Boston Naval Shipyard, Charlestown, Massachusetts

Complement as of 31 December 1967: 14 Officers
231 Enlisted

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Subic

The USS CHARLES P. CECIL (DD-835) welcomed in the New Year at Subic Bay after having completed a 38 day patrol in Tonkin Gulf. The following week was used for upkeep, rest and relaxation. On 7 January CECIL got underway for the Gulf of Tonkin to continue plane guard duties with the USS TICONDEROGA (CVA-14). Then CECIL took two days out of her normal duties to conduct ASW exercises with the USS BLACK FIN (SS-322). Following this CECIL proceeded to Hong Kong to assume duties as SOPA ADMIN for two weeks. Although CECIL had many and varied responsibilities the crew had plenty of time for well deserved rest and relaxation. On 5 February the USS WARRINGTON (DD-843) assumed duties as SOPA ADMIN and CECIL steamed to the Tonkin Gulf where she rendezvoused with TG 77.5 and commenced plane guarding for the USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63). For over a week CECIL and USS STODDARD (DD-566) steamed behind the carrier to provide immediate assistance to pilots if the need arose.

When detached from TG 77.5 on 14 February CECIL proceeded to Kaoshiung, Taiwan for a period of upkeep as well as rest and relaxation. The CECIL tied up alongside the USS PIEDMONT (AD-17) for several days of much needed tender availability. On 25 February an INSURV Inspection was conducted to determine what work should be accomplished during the upcoming shipyard overhaul period.

On 1 March CECIL got underway for the Combat Zone for the last time. CECIL was assigned to the II Corps area of South Vietnam to provide Naval Gunfire Support. On 3 March CECIL relieved USS NORRIS (DD-859) as GFS ship and received its first call for fire eight hours

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later. During the next nine days CECIL delivered 1843 rounds of ammunition in support of ground troops and for harrassment and interdiction fire. CECIL was released on 14 March as NGFS ship for the II Corps Area and set course for Singapore to begin the transit to CONUS via the Mediterranean Sea.

Frequent fuel stops and several liberty ports were included in the transit to Newport during the period 14 March to 25 April. CECIL with COMDESDIV 202 embarked, rendezvoused with USS M.C. FOX (DD-829), USS BROWNSON (DD-868), and USS NORRIS (DD-859) and entered Singapore on 15 March for a two day visit. On 17 March, Destroyer Division 202 got underway for Cochin, India, but first CECIL headed south to cross the Equator to make Shellbacks out of her Pollywogs. The well planned initiation will be long remembered by all the new Shellbacks.

On 20 March the Division chopped from COMSEVENTHFLT to CINCLANTFLT and became TG 26.2. On 22 March the Division entered Cochin, India to take on fuel. The following day the ships got underway for Aden which was the next fuel stop. The Division arrived in Aden, British Protectorate on 27 March for a few brief hours to take on fuel. The Division got underway that same day and entered the Red Sea. On the evening of 30 March the Division dropped anchor in Port Suez Harbor to await morning to begin transit of the Suez Canal. The total time to transit the canal, including 4 hours at anchorage in the Great Bitter Lake was 16 hours.

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Upon entering the Mediterranean Sea on 1 April, course was set for Athens, Greece for a three day port visit. The brief visit allowed the crew to see some of Athens' historical significance and its scenic beauty. The Division departed Athens on 5 April for Naples, Italy, where she arrived 2 days later. This port visit was highlighted by a bus tour to Rome and the Vatican City. On 11 April the Division arrived in Barcelona, Spain for a 3 day visit. The next was Gibraltar on 15 April for just a few hours to take on fuel and the Division proceeded on to the Azores, the last stop prior to Newport, R.I. On 18 April, the ships moored at Ponta Del Gata, Azores for a fuel stop. The next morning the ships got underway for Newport, R.I. During the next six days the ship encountered the usual North Atlantic heavy seas but there was little complaining since everyone was eager to get home.

Hundreds of friends and families were on the pier at Newport Naval Base on the cold morning of 25 April to welcome the CECIL, FOX, BROWNSON, and NORRIS home after the seven month deployment. Following the warm welcome, many of the crew departed on well earned leave. The period of 25 April to 25 May was used primarily as a leave period.

On 29 May the CECIL fired several gunnery exercises in the NARRABAY OPAREAS. Also on 31 May - 1 June the CECIL conducted ASW operations in the NARRABAY OPAREAS with the USS HARDHEAD (SS-365). The CECIL was assigned a tender availability during the month of June with the USS CASCADE (AD-16) in preparation for the upcoming shipyard overhaul. On 27 June CECIL got underway for Earle, N.J. to unload all her ammunition prior to entering the shipyard.

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On 30 June CECIL arrived at Boston Naval Shipyard to commence a four and one-half month regular overhaul, the first since the ship underwent FRAM in the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard in 1964. The work began slowly but by 21 July CECIL was in dry dock and remained there until 23 August.

Steady progress was made in the overhaul and on 17 October CECIL had dock trials alongside the pier. On 31 October the ship made a full power run outside Boston Harbor. Enough problems were uncovered to keep the crew busily working until 15 November when CECIL went to sea for sea trials. On the afternoon of 19 November CECIL said good-bye to Boston and the shipyard and steamed out of the harbor. After a run of the measured mile off Provincetown, Mass. CECIL headed for Earle, N.J. to take on ammunition; returning to Newport just in time for Thanksgiving Dinner. CECIL was back at sea 27 November - 1 December for sonar certification tests and operations in the VACAPES OPAREAS.

The ship departed Newport on 7 December for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where she would commence six weeks of refresher training. CECIL arrived on the morning of 11 December and immediately was given the Arrival Inspection. After a day in port, training began in earnest.

For the second consecutive year, CECIL spent Christmas away from home. Last year CECIL served Christmas dinner in the warm breezy Gulf of Tonkin and this year the delicious meal was served in hot, sunny Guantanamo Bay.

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